

# **Chapter 12.11**

## **Wet Removal of Materials**

### **1. Requirement**

To remove asbestos materials, you shall follow these requirements:

- a. Remove asbestos materials at JSC only using wet removal procedures. Other techniques require specific prior approval by the APM. Wet removal procedures require wetting the material before removal begins, and keeping it wet as it is removed and while it is being bagged. These procedures reduce the generation of airborne fibers during removal and lessen the effort required to remove the material. Wet removal also increases the settling rate of released fibers and prevents the re-suspension of fibers when the ACM is bagged.
- b. Do not use dry removal techniques at JSC without specific authorization from the JSC APM. You shall make a written request to the JSC APM to use dry removal techniques. Justify why dry techniques must be used, and include methods to protect workers and other building occupants.
- c. Dry removal methods require prior TDSHS approval per 40 CFR 61.145. If such methods are proposed, you shall give sufficient lead time to obtain all necessary approvals.
- d. Following removal, abated areas shall have an encapsulant applied to ensure against fiber release, and to bond any edges that are not within the scope of the task.
- e. Encapsulants, whether penetrating or bridging, shall be approved by the EPA, OSHA, or NIOSH.

### **2. Amended water**

Adding a wetting agent to water further enhances the positive effects of wet removal. The wetting agent, which is a combination of chemicals, aids in the penetration of ACM and increases the probability of individual fiber wetting.

### **3. Wetting procedures**

Use the following steps:

- a. Thoroughly wet the ACM with a low-pressure spray of amended water. Lightly spray the material with amended water to initially wet the surface, then spray to saturate it. Since high-pressure water may cause elevated airborne fiber concentrations, you shall use low-pressure systems.
- b. Wait before beginning removal to allow the water to thoroughly penetrate the materials.